

Application No.: 10/614,312
Amendment dated December 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 18, 2004

REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendments, and consideration of the application, as amended.

By this Amendment, the Applicant canceled claims 43-48 and introduced new claims 49-54. Claims 4 and 15 were amended to address a typographical error. Claims 30, 32 and 33 were amended to expand the scope of the recited inventions, for which the Applicant is clearly entitled. No claims were narrowed by these amendments and no new matter was introduced. Claims 1-42 and 49-54 are now pending in this application.

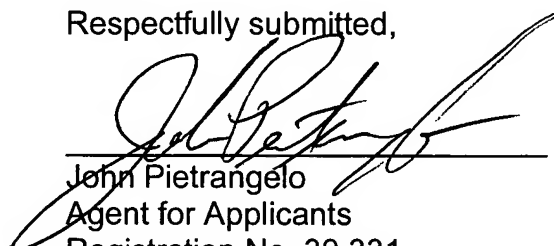
In the above-referenced Office Action, the Patent Office claimed that the inventions recited in claims 1-42 and the inventions recited in as-filed claims 43-48 are distinct. The Patent Office requests that the Applicant restrict examination to one of these inventions for prosecution at this time. The Applicant traverses this restriction on the basis that these inventions are not distinct. However, to comply with the Office Action, the Applicant elects the invention of claims 1-42 for prosecution at this time. New claims 49-54 are also drawn to the invention of claims 1-42. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue protection of the inventions recited in claims 43-48 in, for example, one or more divisional applications at a later time.

The Applicant believes that this Amendment addresses the Restriction of the subject Office Action and places the application in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action on the merits of the application is requested.

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If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, the Applicant's undersigned Agent invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: December 14, 2004.

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